

To whom it may concern:

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program is pleased to submit comments voicing our concerns regarding the Illinois Medicaid 1115 waiver. While we appreciate the work that has gone into putting this together we continue to have the following concerns/questions:

Our general concerns are:

1. We are concerned about what will be used as the universal assessment tool and how this will drive eligibility. We realize this has still not been defined and so we are interested to know how the details of this will be worked out.
2. As people are evaluated we also are hopeful that the people doing the evaluation are not only competent in their field but are trained to work with people with all kinds of disabilities included physical, development, and psychological.
3. We are hopeful that no one on any of the waivers now will have to reapply and will be allowed to stay.
4. We think it is crucial that transparent data be collected and shared so we are all on the same page and can make good and rational decisions as the waiver moves forward.

Our more specific concerns are:

1. P. 58 of the waiver refers to residential habilitation and the supports a person might need to live in the community. Assistive technology should be included in this list as it is an integral part of those supports that can most help a person be successful.
2. P. 63 of the waiver refers to home accessibility modifications. In paragraph one we feel it is necessary to add in line 4: **'include but not limited to'** for those people who might need something out of ordinary.
3. The next paragraph on p. 63 talks about improvements/adaptations to the home that will be excluded. Of particular concern to us is the absence of air conditioning. For people with some medical problems such as heart, lungs (COPD, chronic bronchitis, etc.), asthma, and severe allergies (to mention just a few) it is a matter of health that they have access to an air conditioner. Since central air is mentioned in this section does that then mean that a window air conditioner would be something that could be supported?
4. The end of p. 63 references the \$15,000 maximum amount per participant for Assistive technology and home and vehicle modifications. While this might be sufficient for some people, for others it is too low. For instance if the person lived in Chicago, it is possible that the cost for a ramp alone might be \$15,000 or very close to it. Vehicle modifications could also cost \$15,000. Would a person have to pick and choose from things that might all be crucial to them living in the community?
5. Another concern includes the cost of evaluations. Evaluations can be very pricy depending on who does them and what the evaluations include and who performs them.
6. P. 63 also references \$5000 maximum per address for modifications for rented homes. What if the person has to move within those 5 years? Sometimes people have to move through no fault

of their own (landlord selling building, person needing to be closer to medical care or family, etc.)

7. P. 65 references under Assistive Technology/Adaptive Equipment at the end of the page that "All purchased items shall be the property of the participant of the participant's family." We would like to see added a statement encouraging people to recycle equipment no longer needed. This could be a money saver for the state that could amount in time to several million dollars.
8. P. 66 refers again to the maximum per participant in a five year period. We strongly feel that this amount may not be enough for every person being served under this waiver. For instance, what happens if the Assistive technology is no longer appropriate for the person or if the person's disability changes and the assistive technology need to change to support this?

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you our concerns as the waiver process moves forward. Please let us know if you have questions or if we can in any way help.

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